

Message Text

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65-60

ORIGIN NEA-09

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P R 072318Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 106918

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IN, US

SUBJECT: CALL BY INDIAN AMBASSADOR ON DEPUTY SECRETARY

1. SUMMARY: AT HIS INITIATIVE, AMBASSADOR KAUL CALLED ON DEPUTY SECRETARY MAY 6 TO REVIEW IMPLICATIONS OF SOUTHEAST ASIA DEVELOPMENTS AND TO DISCUSS THE STATE OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. DEPUTY SECRETARY SAID U.S. HOPED FOR GOOD RELATIONS WITH INDIA BUT IS CONCERNED BY RECENT PUBLIC INDIAN CRITICISM. KAUL SAID INDIA ALSO WANTED GOOD RELATIONS AND THOUGHT PRESS REPORTING HAD MISREPRESENTED REMARKS BY INDIAN LEADERS. END SUMMARY.

2. AMBASSADOR KAUL ACCOMPANIED BY ECON MINISTER RAMAKRISHNA CAME IN TO SEE DEPUTY SECRETARY INGERSOLL MAY 6 FOR TOUR D' HORIZON PRIOR TO AMBASSADOR'S DEPARTURE ON CONSULATIONS MAY 18. DUBS AND KUX ALSO SAT IN.
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3. IN RESPONSE TO KAUL'S QUERY, DEPUTY SECRETARY REVIEWED CURRENT SITUATION IN EAST ASIA IN LIGHT OF INDO-CHINA DEVELOPMENTS. U.S. HAS REAFFIRMED ITS INTENTION REMAIN IN REGION, BUT COUNTRIES WILL BE WATCHING OUR ACTIONS AS THEY

CONDUCT THEIR OWN POLICY ASSESSMENTS. DEPUTY SECRETARY NOTED THAT REAPPRAISALS OF FOREIGN POLICIES BY INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES NOT REALLY NEW SINCE THEY HAD BEGUN FOLLOWING PROMULGATION OF NIXON DOCTRINE IN 1969. DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA HAVE ACCELERATED THIS PROCESS.

4. KAUL ASKED FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY'S VIEWS ON ASEAN AND ASKED WHAT USG REACTION WOULD BE TOWARD REGIONAL ARRANGEMENTS LINKING SOUTH ASIA AND SOUTHEAST ASIA, WITHOUT OUTSIDE INVOLVEMENT. DEPUTY SECRETARY SAID WE WERE IMPRESSED WITH ASEAN EFFORTS AND BELIEVED GROUP WAS USEFUL VEHICLE IN PROMOTING REGIONAL STABILITY. WE WOULD FAVOR ANY ARRANGEMENT THAT PROMOTES PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE AREA. (COMMENT: IT WAS UNCLEAR WHETHER KAUL WAS TALKING UNDER INSTRUCTIONS OR PROBING ON HIS OWN.)

5. ON BILATERAL QUESTIONS, DEPUTY SECRETARY SAID WE CONTINUED HOPE U.S. AND INDIA COULD IMPROVE RELATIONS, BUT WE WERE CONCERNED BY SOME RECENT INDIAN PUBLIC STATEMENTS WHICH TENDED TO EXACERBATE ANTAGONISMS. WE HOPED PUBLIC RECRIMINATIONS WHICH DREW BOTH COUNTRIES APART COULD BE AVOIDED.

6. KAUL STATED GOI ALSO WANTED FRIENDLY PRIVATE DIALOGUE BUT ALLEGED THAT RECENT PRESS REPORTING OF SPEECHES BY MRS. GANDHI AND OTHER INDIAN LEADERS WAS SLANTED. HE SAID THAT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S APRIL 25 PUBLIC COMPLAINT ABOUT INDIAN STATEMENTS ALSO SEEMED UNFORTUNATE. GOI THOUGHT IT PREFERABLE FOR USG FIRST TO CHECK PRIVATELY WITH INDIANS BEFORE GOING PUBLIC. KAUL STATED MRS. GANDHI HAD MADE CLEAR TO PRESS IN JAMAICA THAT HER REMARKS RE U.S. WERE MISINTERPRETED AND SHE WAS NOT CRITICIZING US.

7. KAUL SAID GOI HAD NOTED PRESS SPECULATION PRESIDENT FORD MAY BE CANCELLING HIS VISIT. KAUL SAID GOI STILL WELCOMED VISIT BY PRESIDENT. DEPUTY SECRETARY SAID HE CONFIDENTIAL

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UNAWARE OF ANY DECISION TO CANCEL VISIT.

8. ON ARMS POLICY QUESTION, KAUL REITERATED GOI STANDARD CONCERNS. DEPUTY SECRETARY SAID WE RECOGNIZE GOI DISAGREES WITH OUR ARMS POLICY BUT THINK OUR ACTIONS IN IMPLEMENTING THE POLICY WILL BEAR OUT OUR WORDS. KAUL ALSO ASKED THAT IN OUR POST-VIETNAM ASIA POLICY REASSESSMENT, WE MIGHT WISH "TO RETHINK ADVISABILITY OF OUR NEW ARMS POLICY TOWARD SOUTH ASIA.

9. THERE WAS ALSO DISCUSSION OF JOINT COMMISSION. DEPUTY SECRETARY AND KAUL AGREED THAT THIS WAS A USEFUL VEHICLE IN PROMOTING BILATERAL RELATIONS. DEPUTY SECRETARY SAID WE WERE WAITING TO HEAR FROM CHAVAN ABOUT POSSIBLE TIMING

FOR JOINT COMMISSION MEETING SO THAT WE COULD DETERMINE
WHETHER MUTUALLY CONVENIENT DATE COULD BE WORKED OUT. (FYI:
ONCE CHAVAN DECIDES TO RESPOND TO SECRETARY'S LETTER OF
FEBRUARY 28, WE WILL DECIDE WHETHER INDIAN'S RESPONSE TO
OUR DEMARCHES ON PUBLIC CRITICISM OF U.S. WARRANTS OUR

PROCEEDING WITH FULL COMMISSION MEETING. END FYI.) KAUL
SAID HE WOULD BE DISCUSSING THIS WITH CHAVAN WHEN HE SAW
HIM OVER THE WEEKEND IN NEW YORK. KISSINGER

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